ing connections as on 31-1-1989 is 88, and the waiting list is 164.

(b) There is no proposal at present to expand the above exchange due to paucity of resources.

(c) Land is available for construction of a Telephone exchange building but construction has not so far been taken up due to paucity of funds.

Post offices in Kerala

492. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert any post office in Kerala into head post office in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the main post office in Ettumanur in Kottayam district of Kerala will be converted into a head post office during the next plan; and

(d) whether a telegraph sub-division exists at Ettumanur in Kottayam district of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) No, sir.

(c) A Head Post Office is created on the basis of norms laid down for the purpose. Creation of Head Post Office at Ettumanur is not justified as per these norms Moreover, creation of Head Post Offices does not come under the purview of Plan schemes. It is, therefore, not possible to say whether the said office would be converted to a Head Post Office at this stage.

(d) No, Sir.

Thermal Power Plant at Kayankulam

493. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the thermal power plant at Kayankulam in Kerala is to get aid from USSR; and

(b) if so, what will be the total amount and by when the plant will start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) According to the Inter-Governmental Protocol signed between India and USSR on 20th Novermber, 1988, the Government of USSR has agreed to cooperate in the setting up of, amongst others, the Kayankulam Thermal Power Project in Kerala.

(b) The credit agreement to finalise the aid for the project is likely to be signed by March, 1989. The project is expected to be commissioned by the end of the Eighth Plan period.

Measures to lure private sector into power generation

494. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a package of measures to lure the private sector into the field of power generation;

(b) if so, whether necessary guidelines in this regard have already been issued;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) by when Government is likely to include the private sector in the field of power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d) The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity continues to be regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. The expansion of the exist-